ABS Education Services
C2011_3.3
Name: _____
Date: _____

Indigenous Australians and Census Timeline

The following historical scrolls containing information about the Census and Indigenous Australians need to be catalogued from oldest to newest by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Librarian. Can you help?

Task:
Cut out the following information and glue info the timeline (next two pages). You will need to use the historical extracts from Western Australian Censuses in Activity 1 to help you.

Indigenous Australians are considered a dying race. The Government 'takes the best measures available for their protection'. No formal Census takes place.

Indigenous Australians are differentiated by ancestry. Assimilation is encouraged. No formal Census takes place.

Indigenous population stabilises between 26 000 – 27 000 people for some years. No formal Census takes place.

Population continues to decrease. Indigenous Australians are encouraged to take up European lifestyles to gain access to education. medical and social services. No formal Census takes place.

Australian Census year. Census is held every five years from 1961 onwards.

1967 referendum for changes to sections of the Constitution involving Indigenous Australians. The question on the census form was changed to 'What is each person's racial origin?'

Tuesday 6 August. 17,892,423 people were counted in Australia on Census Night. Of these 342,864 people identified as Indigenous Australians.

Tuesday 7 August. 18,972,350 people were counted in Australia on Census Night. Of these 410,003 people identified as Indigenous Australians.

In 1981, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) formally adopted the following question as the standard for identifying the Indigenous population: 'Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?'

Adverse public reaction to the use of the word 'racial' in the 1976 Census, sparks another significant shift in questioning approach.

Australian Census officially included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia's population count for the first time.

Tuesday 8 August 19,855,288 people were counted in Australia on Census Night. Of these 455,031 people identified as Indigenous Australians.

In the mid-19th century, compatibility between the colonies in their respective censuses was encouraged, and in 1881 a census was held simultaneously in each of the colonies. It did not include Indigenous Australians.

Australia federates. Census year, organised separately by each state.

The first national census was developed by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TIME LINE OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IN CENSUS

1881	
1901	
1911	
1916	
1919	
1921	Australian Census year
1933	Australian Census year
1946	
1947	Australian Census year

1950

1954 Australian Census year

1961
1962

1966 Australian Census year
1967

1971

1976

1981

1986 Australian Census year

1991 Australian Census year

1996

2001

2006

2011 Australian Census year

'About Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Statistics'
http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/cashome.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/7464946b3f41b282ca25759f00202502!OpenDocument
Electoral Milestones / Timetable for Indigenous Australians http://www.aec.gov.au/Voting/indigenous_vote/indigenous.htm